Danita Pappas

21 July 2011

Tech Activity

1. This tool allows students to think critically about the list that they see in front of them and make a judgment about why they would rank something higher or lower than something else. They evaluate their options and according to the criteria that they set for the exercise, make an informed decision about how to rank them. They think about their own values and attitudes and in collaborating with their fellow students, come up with a comprehensive evaluation.
2. The key steps include first developing the project. Having an idea about how to use the program in an effective way and the best way to implement it is important before you can progress. This includes the description and the student prompt so they know what and why something is useful. Then you generate the list for ranking. This will be more beneficial if the list is generated by the students themselves. It is important that the teacher be familiar with the program and show excitement for the project. Once the teacher has done the preliminary work, the students can log into the program and start ranking!
3. I find the application of this tool to music to be a little hard to adapt. The students could rank their favorite \_\_\_whatever\_\_\_ in order of importance to them, but that seems so not enough. I like the idea of a group working together to generate the ranking. In reading about the unit on communities, I thought that it would be interesting to talk about the why’s and how’s of music. How it is used and maybe the most important places to have music. For example, the list could include movies, parks, plays, concert halls, elevators, study time, ect. This would reinforce to the kids and make them think about how prevalent music is in our everyday life and how music is used. I am not sure of the best way to integrate this idea into a high school band rehearsal. I think it would be easier to do this sort of thing in an elementary general music class or even a middle school band. I agree there is little time in band class with performance rehearsals and the need to develop students’ skills to take students to a computer class. This tool could be used by the students to choose music they want to perform from a repertoire they have already learned or to choose pieces they want to learn. +5